GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1997
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
SCHEMES FOR PROMOTION OF SPORTS AND YOUTH RELATED ACTIVITIES
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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to promote all types of games and youth related activities in the country, especially in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds to be allocated for the purpose;

(d) whether arm wrestling is recognised by the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, whether the Government proposes to recognise the said game; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT)

(a) & (b): All existing schemes promote all types of game, including rural sports. So far promotion of youth activities is concerned, two organizations of this Ministry viz. `National Service Scheme.` (for student youth) and `NehruYuva Kendra Sangathan.` (for non student youth in rural areas especially) are actively engaged in this task. Special efforts are made to promote rural youth clubs and rural sports clubs.

Though `Sports` is a State subject and promotion of the same at State level is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Government of India, through various Schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Government in promotion of sports at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior level. At present SAI is implementing the under mentioned Schemes for promotion and development of sports in the country.

- National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)
- Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
- Special Area Games (SAG)
- SAI Training Center (STC)
- Center of Excellence (COX)

Most of the talent scouted for admission in the above mentioned schemes are from rural areas. The Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme is especially designed to scout talent from the tribal, coastal and hilly areas. Apart from the above schemes, SAI also implements `All India Rural Sports Programme` on behalf of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India on agency basis.

For the current financial year Rs. 4216.42 lakhs is projected for all the above Scheme.

(c): Does not arise in view of the existing schemes.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.

(f) & (g): The Arm wrestling sport is not a very popular discipline in the country at present. It is neither an event in the Commonwealth or Olympic Games. Accordingly, the Association has been advised to strive for conducting maximum activities at grass root level to popularise this sport in the country.